

SPARK GAP MARC

Field Day '99

Participants in ARRL Field Day--the most popular annual operating event in the US and Canada--will encounter one significant change in rules for this year's event, **June 26-27**.

Those using batteries to power their equipment now will be able to charge them while in use. The change affects all entry classes except Class D (home stations using commercial power; home stations using emergency power, including rechargeable batteries, should enter in Class E). In the past, only Class C (mobile) stations could charge batteries while in use. As previously, batteries must be charged from a power source independent of the commercial mains.

For the first time, the **ARRL** is making available annual Field Day pins to show your participation in the 1999 event. You don't have to make a minimum number of contacts or achieve a particular score level. You just have to participate!

Pins are \$5 each. Field Day groups are advised to collect the money for the pins and send a single order stating the number of pins needed to ARRL Contest Branch, ATTN: Field Day Pins, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. The League will ship the pins back to the club for distribution.

The first "International Field Day" was held June 10-11, 1933, billed as "just a test of portable

equipment" for US and Canadian amateurs, according to former ARRL Communications Manager **George Hart, W1NJM**. Hart says then-Communications Manager **Ed Handy, W1BDI**, came up with the idea of Field Day, which now is in its 66th year. It was not until the second annual Field Day, in 1934, that Handy's Field Day write-up in *QST* raised the aspect of emergency preparedness.

Entries for Field Day 1999 must be postmarked by July 27, 1999. No late entries can be accepted. Participants should read the General Rules for ALL ARRL Contests (visit <http://www.arrl.org>), which include submission guidelines. All Field Day submissions should include a Summary Sheet and Dupe Sheet as well as supporting information for publicity, bonus point, and other information the rules require.

Field Day groups and participants are invited to submit their entries electronically via e-mail. As the rules state, the subject line should include the call sign used, the contest name and entry class. Send electronic entries to **FieldDay@arrl.org**. Paper entries go to Field Day Entries, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

For the complete 1999 Field Day rules, visit <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/99/rules-fd.html> or see the May 1999 issue of *QST*.

Reprinted from *The ARRL Letter*

Next club meeting
Saturday, May 15th 8 AM at the EOC,

May 1999

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

Membership

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club is based in Franklin, Indiana. Membership is open to all amateur radio operators and other interested persons.

Club meetings are conducted on the third Saturday of each month in the training room of the Johnson County Emergency Operations Center at 1100 Hospital Road in Franklin, IN.

Membership dues are \$18.00 per year for full members. Other types of membership are available.

Amateur Radio Operator License testing is offered following the club meeting during the months of March through November.

The club maintains an open repeater on the 2-meter band at 146.835 MHz. Each full member has access to the repeater and autopatch.

Membership dues payment and change of address should be mailed to the club treasurer at the address listed below.

Newsletter

The Spark Gap is the monthly club newsletter. Articles and information that would be of interest to the club members are welcome. Information may be submitted by E-mail or by mailing to the club address listed below.

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(WA9ZET)

Activities

Jack Parker
(W8ISH)

Bob LaGrange
(N9SIU)

Other

Appointments

Pending

Membership

Larry Turner
(KB9PWN)

Bill Goodall
(K9DBY)

Other

Appointments

Pending



MARC, PO Box 836, Franklin, IN 46131

A SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB OF THE ARRL



FCC Complaints via E-Mail

The FCC says it now wants Amateur Radio enforcement complaints via e-mail or US mail and has discontinued its Amateur Enforcement Line (202-418-1184). The FCC this week requested that amateur-related complaints be sent via e-mail to fccham@fcc.gov or via the US Postal Service to Compliance & Information Bureau, ATTN Amateur Radio Complaints, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

The FCC instituted the telephone service last fall when it beefed up amateur enforcement under the direction of **Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH**. However, the FCC never intended to maintain the telephone service permanently. The FCC said this week that complaints already filed on the telephone service will be acted upon, and anyone who has left a message will receive a return call from Commission staff.

Reprinted from *The ARRL Letter*

Stop That Annoying Bug!

The perfect H-T for Field Day? Just when you thought modern H-Ts had included just about every feature conceivable, along comes **Alinco** with its new DJ-195T that includes--get this--an experimental "mosquito repel" feature. Alinco USA Branch Manager **Katsumi Nakata, KE6RD**, says the unit emits an electronic tone to keep the annoying

insects away from the vicinity of the radio. "It's a feature we added just for fun," Nakata said. "The mosquito repel feature could make the DJ-195T the first radio capable of de-bugging a Field Day operating position," he added with a smile. (*Hmmm*. Was that announcement dated April 1?)

Reprinted from *The ARRL Letter*

School Rocket Launch

The third **annual Delaware Rockets For Schools** program will launch a sub-orbital amateur radio carrying **rocket Saturday, May 8, 1900 UTC (3 PM local)** at Cape Henlopen State Park, Delaware. The rocket will carry three payloads designed and constructed by computer/electronics technology students at Delaware Tech-Terry Campus. The Super Loki payload consists of a GPS/MIM sending

a GGA sentence to a 0.5 W transmitter on 145.79 MHz (± 5 kHz). Telemetry data will be sent as well. The Loki is expected to reach at least 50 km. It will be launched in an easterly direction over Delaware Bay. Descent time is 30-50 minutes. For more information, visit the Delaware Rockets For Schools Payload page, <http://www.dtel.terry.dtcc.edu/~rocket>. --**Sam Guccione, K3BY**

Reprinted from *The ARRL Letter*

Tom was sitting on the porch swing with his new girlfriend when she asked, "Your grandfather is a little hard of hearing, isn't he?"

"A little hard of hearing!" Tom replied. "Heck, yesterday he said his prayers while kneeling on the cat!"

May 1999

The New-Tulsa Tornado Measurement Scale New Rating System....(using the MOO scale)

F0 = **Moo 0**

Cow feels high winds (cow continues to munch grass)

F1 = **Moo 1**

Cow pushed over by high winds (cow is annoyed at this inconvenience)

F2 = **Moo 2**

Cow pushed over and dragged by high wind (cow is now somewhat concerned)

F3 = **Moo 3**

Cow slammed against the barn wall (cow wishes for return of good old days)

F4 = **Moo 4**

Cow becomes airborne (cow now has great concern for future well being)

F5 = **Moo 5**

Steak!

A special thanks to **Steve, KA9ZRU** for this bit of humor.

Contributed by Bob LaGrange, N9SIU

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amateur, Business band, CB's and
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Wittfield St. is the first street east of Post Road on Tenth
St., then north on Wittfield to 1217 (RED MAILBOX)

Mommy, mommy!

The little girl came running into the house screaming, "Mommy, mommy!"

Her mother managed to get a tearful story about how her father was drowning the new baby kittens in the creek.

The mother patiently explained that because they lived on a farm and that the eight cats they already had were too many to feed, that it was just humane to destroy the kittens rather than let them starve to death.

The little girl, through her tears, replied, "Mommy, I understand all that. But, yesterday dad promised me that I could be the one to drown them!"